

Swiss Re sponsors American Museum of Natural History's new Space Show, The Search for Life: Are We Alone?

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As part of its Sharing Solutions corporate citizenship program, Swiss Re is sponsoring The Search for Life: Are We Alone?, the new Hayden Planetarium Space Show at the American Museum of Natural History's Rose Center for Earth and Space. The new Space Show begins its run on March 2, 2002. The sponsorship is a major initiative under Swiss Re's Sharing Solutions program in support of the company's commitment to sustainability.

Jacques E. Dubois, chairman, chief executive officer and president of Swiss Re America Holding Corporation, said, "We are extremely proud of the American Museum of Natural History's stellar Space Show and pleased to play a part in making it a reality. Swiss Re shares many things in common with the American Museum of Natural History, such as the study of natural phenomena and the dedication of its employees to understand the unknown," said Dubois. "We hope the Space Show sponsorship will be the start of an ongoing collaborative relationship between our organizations."

Ellen V. Futter, president of the American Museum of Natural History, said, "The Search for Life: Are We Alone? blends ongoing research conducted by Museum scientists and their colleagues around the world with state-of-the-art supercomputing technologies to create a brilliant panorama of deep space, including a walk on Mars and a dramatic visualization of the formation of our own fragile planet. We are deeply grateful to Swiss Re for their generous support - which has enabled us to present a transformative view of a universe rich in other worlds. In these challenging times, we believe that the theme of humanity's search for other life in the universe will have even more resonance and, ultimately, be enlightening and uplifting."

Narrated by Academy Award-nominated actor Harrison Ford, the new Space Show examines the possibilities of life beyond our planet. Underscoring the scientific journey is the importance of water to sustain life, as we know it. The presence of polar ice caps on Mars suggests that, given different environmental conditions, liquid water -- one of the essential harbingers of life as we know it -- could be available to support life. Scientists have already discovered that life on Earth can thrive in environments previously thought inhospitable. From this unique perspective, the Space Show is an excellent sponsorship program for Swiss Re, which applies scientifically-based knowledge of the Earth's changing environment, from forecasts on climate and other natural events to heightening awareness for water conservation.

Based in Zurich, Switzerland, Swiss Re, one of the world's largest reinsurers, has approximately 7,500 employees worldwide with more than 2,200 in North America, half of whom work in the New York Metropolitan area. Through its scientists, researchers and actuaries, Swiss Re provides research and expertise through its award-winning sigma studies, proprietary publications, seminars and high-level forums held at the company's Centre for Global Dialogue in Rüslikon, Switzerland.

About Swiss Re

Swiss Re is one of the world's leading reinsurers with over 70 offices in more than 30 countries. In the 2000 financial year, gross premium volume amounted to CHF 26.1 billion (USD 15.4 billion) and the net income after tax reached CHF 3 billion (USD 1.8 billion). Swiss Re is rated "AAA" by Standard & Poor's, "Aaa" by Moody's and "A++" (superior) by A.M. Best.

About the American Museum of Natural History

The American Museum of Natural History is one of the world's preeminent scientific, educational, and cultural institutions. Since its founding in 1869, the Museum has advanced its global mission to discover, interpret, and disseminate information about human cultures, the natural world, and the universe through a wide-reaching program of scientific research, education, and exhibitions.

The Museum accomplishes this ambitious goal through its extensive facilities and resources. The institution comprises 25 interconnected buildings housing 45 permanent exhibition halls, state-of-the-art research laboratories, one of the largest natural history libraries in the Western Hemisphere, and a permanent collection of 32 million specimens and cultural artifacts. With a scientific staff of more than 200, including 47 curators, the Museum supports research divisions in anthropology, Paleontology, Invertebrate and Vertebrate Zoology, and the Physical Sciences. In February 2000 the Museum opened its most ambitious endeavor ever the monumental 120-foot-high, 333,500-square-foot Frederick Phineas & Sandra Priest Rose Center for Earth and Space. This spectacular new exhibition, research, and education facility, which

includes a rebuilt and rejuvenated Hayden Planetarium, features striking exhibits about the nature of the universe and our planet that link seamlessly to the rest of the Museum. The Museum shares its treasures and discoveries with approximately five million on-site visitors from around the globe each year. In addition, the Museum's Web site, www.amnh.org, extends its collections, exhibitions, and educational programs to millions more beyond the Museum's walls.

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